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**ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

December 20, 2001

Thomas V. Skinner, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 5
MC - R-19J
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation**Dear Administrator Skinner:**

On behalf of Governor George H. Ryan, I am requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency participate on a new intergovernmental Action Team to address the groundwater contamination issues that have arisen during the Illinois EPA's ongoing sampling of private wells in the Downers Grove area. We appreciate the interest and assistance your office has provided in this effort, and we believe now is the time to formalize a coordinated response that will also include the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Our goal is for the Action Team to hold its first meeting in early January 2002. By working together and pooling the resources of all our agencies and local governments, we will assure this issue gets the serious attention it deserves. In addition, creation of the Action Team will facilitate communication among all our agencies and efficient dissemination of information.

In conjunction with the Action Team, we are seeking your assistance in facilitating the formation of a Citizens Advisory Group composed of private well owners in the sampled areas. This Group will provide valuable input to the Action Team and will insure that information and expertise is shared with citizens in a timely manner.

Governor Ryan has also asked the Action Team to examine the broader issues of groundwater contamination and protection in Illinois, and whether additional services or legislation is needed on the local or state level to assist private well owners in having a safe drinking water supply. Governor Ryan and I also see this as an excellent opportunity for all of us to increase public awareness of the importance of protecting our groundwater resources.

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

My staff will follow up with you shortly to arrange the details of the initial meeting. Again, on behalf of Governor Ryan and me, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee Cipriano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renee Cipriano
Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency